

THE CHAMPION

A NEWSPAPER OF TODAY

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Mayor Milian, of West Tampa, committed suicide over domestic troubles this week.

Lee County has put out a ticket against the democrats to be voted for in the November general election.

This seems to be a good school year almost all over Florida, according to the various local newspapers. And it is so if Arcadia may be taken as a fair sample. Our school never was so prosperous and bids fair to be even better than our fondest anticipations.

Editor H. C. Sparkman's Perry *Herald* came to hand this week, and altho it comes from a field with which we are not familiar still it looks like an old friend. Here's wishing the *Herald* and its editor all kinds of success, such as a good editor and a good newspaper always deserve.

The news comes from Michigan that Florida took first premium at the State Fair, recently held there, for fruits, vegetables and tropical plants. The exhibit was got together by J. C. Baile, and Mrs. Florence P. Haden, of Coconut Grove, near Miami, had charge of the exhibit.

The Asiatic cholera has broken out in Russia, and is attaining great virulence, many deaths being reported. The Philippine Islands are infected and report a death rate of twenty a day, at Manila. There is well grounded cause for fear that this dreadful disease will spread throughout other sections of Asia, wiping out population at the rate of fifty percent of those that are attacked.

Altho the equatorial storm was not due until September 23, this section was afflicted with a three days rain storm beginning on last Saturday and lasting until Tuesday night, September 22. At no time this season has there been so much standing water over the whole surface of the country as in the past few days. If this is a sample of DeVoe's fair weather, we are apprehensive of what his storm period, predicted for the last of this week, will do for us.

Already the statesmen of the civilized world are beginning to worry over international questions in reference to the airships that will soon be navigating the skies. If the air about us is to become a highway, then that element which has hitherto been free to all who wish to use it, will become a merchantable product and limits will be, doubtless, shortly defined beyond which foreign airships shall not penetrate, without consent of the nations owning the land beneath. The national boundaries are made to include so many miles of the waters which surround our land, and with successful air navigation probably like boundaries will be defined in the skies.

The shocking accident which wrecked the Wright airship last Friday, killed Lieutenant Selfridge, and seriously injured Orville Wright, is one of those lamentable accidents that are almost certain to occur in launching any new invention wherein so many elements of danger are combined. The history of ballooning is dotted with death records, the use of electricity, steam and oils as motive powers have long death rolls to their credit. So the airship has its victims. In time the science of building airships and using them will have progressed so favorably that the elements of danger will be mostly removed. Before that a few lives must be sacrificed, that humanity may be benefitted immeasurably.

The Wright aeroplane in an unofficial flight made at Ft. Myer, near Washington, last Friday, broke its propellor blades when at a height of about seventy-five feet and was precipitated to the ground, killing Lieutenant Selfridge, who was by order of the government on the aeroplane to receive instruction in its use, pending the purchase of the aeroplane by the government, which was to buy it at a contract price of \$25,000 if the official tests required by the government were complied with before September 28. It is understood that the government will extend the time limit for the official test until such time as the Wright Brothers may be ready. Orville Wright, who was steering the aeroplane in flight, was seriously injured by the breaking of the propellor blades, but will recover, probably in a couple of months.

Look for the comet said to be visible to the unaided eye in the north-eastern skies during this month.

The negro fiend who so cruelly murdered two old women near Jacksonville last week has been captured and confessed.

Ex-Governor Wm. S. Jennings, of Florida, is touring the United States together with Wm. J. Bryan, the democratic nominee for president. Mr. Jennings and Mr. Bryan are cousins.

At a big military tournament now being held in St. Joseph, Mo. the Baldwin dirigible balloon will be exhibited, in flight, by its inventor, who hopes to sell it to the U. S. Government for use in time of war. Regulars, to the number of 5,000 are in encampment at St. Joseph.

THE CHAMPION has under consideration the advisability of publishing all through this fall and winter a twelve to sixteen page paper each week, all home print, and mostly all home news. We have lately found eight pages considerably crowded and believe that conditions will demand at least twelve pages. We know that they will if Arcadia's merchants and business men but take the interest they should in going with printer's ink after the business they are not now getting, but which should be theirs.

It is an Iowa paper that says: "We are in need of a considerable amount of money within the next few days and respectfully ask our friends who are interested in the success of this paper to make an effort to pay their subscription accounts within that time. If you are not behind at all, come in and advance your subscription a year or two." All of which is most excellent advice and would probably be welcome, if carried out, to every paper in Florida, but we don't know of many of them that would have the nerve to ask its subscribers to advance several years subscription.

Presbyterian Church

Rev. H. Keigwin pastor.
Services every Sunday 11 a. m. and 7:15 p. m.
Sunday School 10 a. m.
Prayer Meeting 7:30 p. m. Wednesday.

Subject for next Sunday morning The Savior's parable of the Barren Fig Tree, Luke 13:6-9 was the subject for meditation last Sunday morning, and the practical subject of

THE SIN OF UNFRUITFULNESS

Was enforced from the suggestive theme.

Having shown from the emphatic teaching of nature and the Bible that the object for which man was created is the glory of God it was noted that the Savior tells us the way that God designs it to be done. "Herein is My Father glorified that ye bear much fruit." Hence the great business and purpose of our existence on earth is Christian fruitfulness. And if, as we are told in I Cor. 6:19-20, "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body and your spirit which are God's," it follows that we are defrauding our Maker out of his just dues when we live for the service of self and the world instead of the service of God.

The Savior's story is of a fig tree planted in the fruitful soil of a vineyard, where it had the very best opportunity to produce fruit. The owner had a perfect right to its fruit and when for three suc-

cessive years he came seeking fruit, and finding his expectations disappointed he said to his servant "cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground." A tree that fails in what a tree was made for does not deserve to live. It not only fails of service but is a positive detriment in the vineyard hindering vines and cumbering the ground. Science calls it "the survival of the fittest," and nature exhibits, every where, how she gets rid of useless objects. And since the God of the natural world is the God of the spiritual world you naturally expect that the useless soul will share the same fate.

The original application of the parable is of course to the Hebrew nation which after all the advantages God gave them failed to fulfill the purpose for which God called them and the barren fig tree was cut down nation in the destruction of Jerusalem. But the parable reaches out into a universal application and teaches us in these days of

THE SIN OF UNFRUITFULNESS

1. The great fault of the fig tree was barrenness, failure shortcoming. This was all; but this was enough to merit destruction. The sin of omission in the performance of duty to God and man is as heinous as the sin of commission. Omission of obvious duty is as culpable as overt acts of disobedience to an express command. Archbishop Usher on his death bed prayed, "O Lord forgive me especially for my sins of omission." Want of conformity to the law of God is as much guilt as transgression of the law. And the judgment test of character as given us by our Savior in Matt. 25 chapter is simply and only the sin of omission. The "goats" on the left hand hear the word "depart from me ye cursed," not on account of overt sin, but failure to minister to Christ in the person of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked the sick and the prisoner. The fig tree was to be cut down solely because it was barren of fruit.

AGGRAVATED UNFRUITFULNESS

2. Its advantages unimproved aggravated its fault. Its position in the fruitful soil of the vineyard and the oversight and care it received gave it advantages over other fig trees out in wild nature. And so where much is given much will be required. Better to have been born in a heathen land than in this land of Christian light and Christian influences and Christian training, if we fail to improve our advantages and responded to the unusual privileges God has given us. It aggravates our guilt if we waste the advantages God has given us.

CONTINUOUS UNFRUITFULNESS

3. There is a point beyond which patience ceases to be a virtue. And so after "three years" of seeking fruit from the useless boughs of that fig tree the owner felt that he could wait no longer and he gave orders for its destruction.

We are told in Scripture "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." God only can know how near to the end of our probation season some of us may be. Surely He has waited long enough to have exhausted the patience of the best saint on earth. Can we reasonably expect Him to bear much longer to see us begin to bear the "much fruit" He expects from His highly favored creatures in this Christian land.

DAMAGING UNFRUITFULNESS

4. The barren fig tree was a positive evil in the vineyard. It was "a cumberer of the ground." No one can live the neutral life.

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Timely Views and News

The Gift of Song

If I couldn't sing as I trudge along
To the goal through this earthly vale,
If I couldn't scatter the notes of song
As flowers along the trail,
I would want to hit up a livelier gait,
To quicken my laggard pace;
To hasten along to the joys that wait
Ahead at the stopping place.
There is joy in song when you think it fair
With cheer on desponding ears,
That it batters down the uprising walls
Of troubles and griefs and fears;
That it smooths the path of a fellow soul
Who is bent 'neath a heavy load,
And sweetens the bitterness of the bowl
As he totters along the road.
A cheery sonnet that strikes a chord
Responsive in other hearts,
That falls as a soothing lotion poured
On the sting from misfortune's darts.
Is a treasure greater than golden gain
To a soul that is rent with care,
For gold cannot heal the smarting pain
Of a wound that is rankling there.
So I thank the Lord for the gift of song,
For the beautiful boon of power
To scatter seeds as I tramp along
That may rise into full-blown flower,
And I'll sing in my humble way until
The fingers that love to hold
The pen, in the grasp of death are still,
And the heart of the singer is cold.

—Jas. Barton Adams.

Those Green Oranges

The Wauchula *Advocate* is the first and only paper we have known to uphold the shipping of green oranges. This reasoning may be good, but somehow we have gotten it into our head in a different way. California ships oranges to the same markets as Florida. California has a fruit growers association that only allows the shipment of mature, fancy fruit beautifully put up. They use lots of printer's ink and advertise that California fruit is always sweet, palatable. Our green fruit goes into the market as Florida fruit. It is sour, shrivelled, green, and less. They don't see any of that kind in California and immediately conclude that Florida fruit is inferior when every Floridian knows that California's best tasteless and unwelcome as compared with the Florida fruit. Still the *Advocate* may be right, even if we don't see it that way and we publish their views what they are worth:

"Several weeks ago the first apples of the season made their appearance in the local market of Wauchula. They were small insipid summer apples more or less wormy and showing decay, but were the first of the season and the people bought them. Recently we saw some of as fine, large, red, and ripe apples as one would care to see, and they found a ready sale. The people of Wauchula when they bought the first apples that appeared on the market that they were not getting Green Northern Spies, nor the pretty Ben Davis, and the first lot of poor apples did not spoil the sale of the better ones when they arrived. And now when the true of apples is undoubtedly true of oranges, the people of the northern cities that buy oranges doubtless as intelligent as the people of Florida buy apples, and when they buy Florida oranges in October and November they do not expect the high grade of fruit that they would in January. To our mind this thing of protesting against shipping green fruit is all bosh. Orange growers have no call to be philanthropists any more than apple growers have, and sensible growers will continue to ship their fruit when they believe they can get most money for it. That there is nothing unbecomingly in eating green oranges is fully illustrated in every orange growing district every season. It is enough for writers who have nothing at stake to test through the public journals against shipping green fruit, and to plead with the growers that they are ruining their business, but we have found men who have succeeded in acquiring a beautiful orange grove that feels that he needs a guard especially a self-appointed one."

Keep Your Grit

Hang on! Cling on! No matter what they say
Push on! Sing on! Things will come your way
Sitting down and whining never helps a bit;
Best way to get there is by keeping up your grit.

Don't give up hoping when the ship goes down
Grab a spar or something—just refuse to drown
Don't think you're dying just because
Smile in the face of danger and grit.

Folks die too easy—they sort of flinch
Make a little error and give up in
Kind of man that's needed is the man
With a little grit.

To laugh a pain and trouble and